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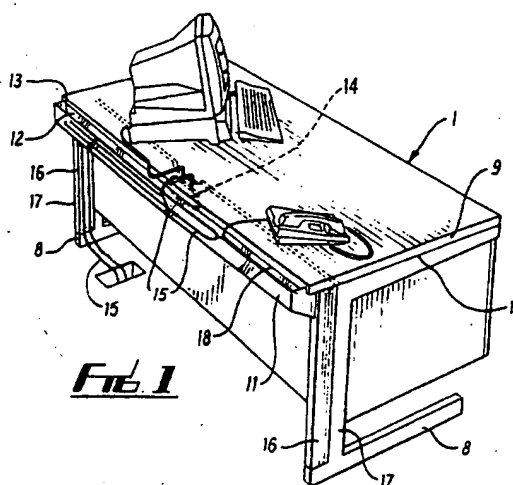
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**Desk.**

A desk (1) with a sliding mechanism which enables the desk top (9) to slide forward towards the operator allowing access to a channel (11). The channel (11) runs along the back of the desk top (9) and has a pliable closure strip (12) which abuts the desk top (9) when the desk top (9) is not slid forward. The closure strip (12) allows cables (15) to be trapped between the closure strip (12) and the desk top (9). The sliding mechanism has two components a first of which is a block (3) which slides on a metal plate (6) provided within the open top (7) of each desk leg frame (8). The block (3) being attached to the underside (10) of the desk top (9).



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This invention refers to a desk.

Due to the extensive use of electrical apparatus in office environments, a large number of cables are present which are unsightly and cumbersome if they are left loose.

A number of mechanisms are known which help with the management of cables whilst providing access to the cables for maintenance. Sliding mechanisms are available which attach between the main desk structure and the underside of the top of a desk. These mechanisms are fitted between the end frames of the desk and usually consist of ball bearing runners and plastic, metal or wood slides.

Other arrangements include narrow hinged lids at the back of the desk and various shaped holes in the desk top which are fitted with plastic infills through which the cables can pass.

These sliding mechanisms and arrangements have the disadvantages that they are visible and that there is a possibility of injury to a person working at the desk from exposed sliding mechanisms. There is also a possible danger of cables being snagged by the sliding mechanism and of oil or grease getting onto operator's clothes.

It is an object of the present invention to mitigate these disadvantages.

According to the present invention there is provided a desk having sliding means for horizontally displacing a top surface of the desk, said sliding means having two components, one component being incorporated in a desk leg frame.

Preferably, a first component of the sliding means is attached to the underside of the top surface of the desk and a second component is incorporated in the top surface of the desk leg frame upon which the top surface rests:

Preferably, there is at least one sliding means disposed at each desk leg.

The first component may be in the form of a member defining a channel and the second component may be in the form of a projection formed in the desk leg frame, the projection fitting within the channel to provide a relative sliding movement.

Preferably, stops are provided to restrict the sliding movement of the top surface after sliding a predetermined distance. The stops may be released to allow the top surface to be removed from the desk leg frames.

Preferably, a channel is provided across the width of the desk, disposed at the back of the desk.

Preferably, the channel has a pliable closure slip abutting the desk top.

At least one enclosure may be provided for attachment to desk legs to enclose cables and to provide access to the channel.

Preferably, a socket block is provided within the channel and excess lengths of cable can be placed in the channel.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig 1 is a perspective semi-transparent view of a desk in accordance with the present invention;

Fig 2 is a plan of the desk of Fig 1; and

Fig 3 is a perspective view of the sliding mechanism of the desk of Fig 1.

Referring to the drawings, a desk 1 has a sliding mechanism 2 which is formed a number of sets of two components and which also serve to attach the desk top 9 to the leg frames 8. The first component is in the form of a block 3 which has a groove 4 along one face 5 of the block 3. The grooved blocks 3 slide on the second component in the form of metal plates 6 which are provided within the open top 7 of each desk leg frame 8. Two blocks 3 are attached by screw means 17 to the underside 10 of the desk top 9 at each side of the desk 1.

Two metal plates 6 are disposed in each leg frame 8 and project horizontally from the outer vertical side of the leg frame 8.

The metal plates 6 are spaced apart to allow the block 3 to slide on and off the metal plates 6. Stops are provided on the metal plates 6 to prevent the blocks 3 from unintentionally sliding off the metal plates 6. The stops may be released if the desk top 9 needs to be removed from the leg frame 8.

A channel 11 is disposed at the back of the desk top 9 which spans across the width of the desk 1 between the desk legs 17. The channel 11 has a pliable closure strip 12 which allows cables 15 to be trapped between the closure strip 12 and the desk top 9 at any point along the join 18 between the closure strip 12 and the desk top 9.

The channel 11 is divided into divisions to enable different types of cables to be segregated. A socket block 14 can be mounted inside the channel 11. Excess machine cable lengths 15 can also be stored in the channel 11.

The channel 11 communicates with the enclosures 16 fitted to the desk legs 17 and cables 15 can be directed up through the enclosures 16 to the channel 11.

The sliding mechanism, channel 11 and desk leg enclosures 16 can be incorporated into any desk with square or cantilever leg frames.

In use the desk top 9 can be slid forward towards the operator and due to the stops, there is no risk of unintentionally sliding the top 9 too far forward or tilting the top 9. The cables 15 and the socket block 14 can be accessed for maintenance and repair or installation in the channel 11 when the top has been slid forward. If the desk top 9 needs to be removed from the leg frame 8 the stops can be released and the top 9 slid further forward.

The cables 15 run from the equipment on the desk to the nearest point of the join 18 between the

channel closure slip 12 and the desk top 9 and the cables 15 can enter the channel 11 at any point due to the pliable nature of the closure strip 12 which traps the cables 15 without damaging or restricting their use.

Within the channel 11 the cables 15 can be segregated in divisions of the channel 11, extra cable lengths can be stored and the cables 15 can be plugged into the socket block 14. Cables 15 from the socket block 14 or from the equipment on the desk are then led down the enclosures 16 attached to the desk leg frames 8. The cables 15 can then exit at the base of the desk legs 17 and can either unobtrusively connect along the floor to the mains connection, or enter an aperture in the floor.

Existing desks with square or cantilever leg frames can be adapted to incorporate the sliding mechanism, channel 11 and leg enclosures 16. This can be achieved by attaching the blocks 3 to the underside 10 of the desk top 9 and attaching metal plates 6 to the leg frames 8 where required.

Modifications and improvements can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

#### Claims

1 A desk (1) having a sliding means for horizontally displacing a top surface (9) of the desk (1), said sliding means having two components, one component being incorporated in a desk leg frame (8).

2 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a first component (3) of the sliding means is attached to the underside (10) of the top surface (9) of the desk (1) and a second component (6) is incorporated in the top surface (9) of the desk leg frame (8) upon which the top surface (9) rests.

3 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein there is at least one sliding means disposed at each desk leg (17).

4 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein one of the components is in the form of a member defining a channel (4) and the other component is in the form of a projection formed in the desk leg frame (8), the projection fitting within the channel (4) to provide a relative sliding movement.

5 A desk (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, in which stops are provided to restrict the sliding movement of the top surface after sliding a predetermined distance.

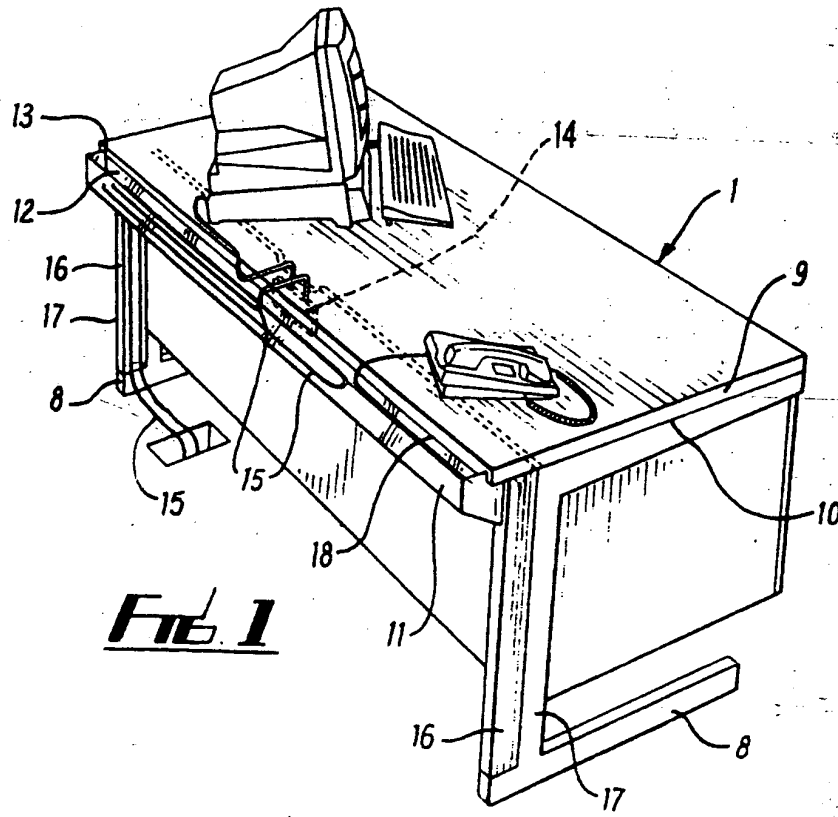
6 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the stops can be released to allow the top surface (9) to be removed from the desk leg frames (8).

7 A desk (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, wherein a channel (11) is provided across the width of the desk (1), the channel (11) being disposed at the back (13) of the desk (1).

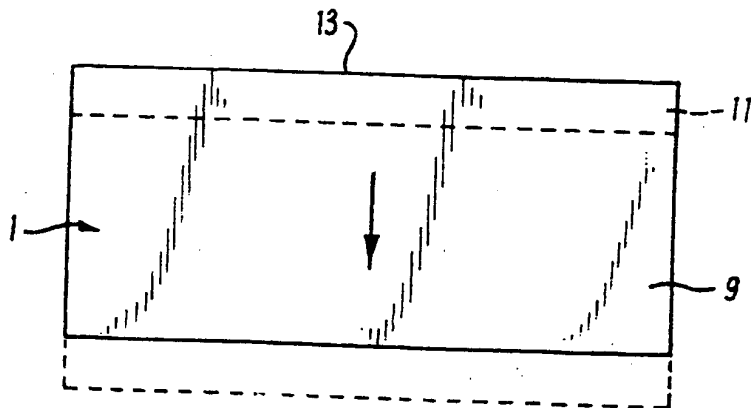
8 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the channel (11) has a pliable closure strip (12) abutting the desk top (9).

9 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8 wherein at least one enclosure (16) is provided for attachment to the desk legs (17) to enclose cables (15) and to provide access to the channel (11).

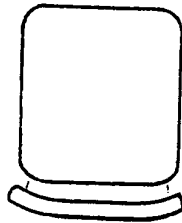
10 A desk (1) as claimed in Claim 7, 8 or 9 wherein a socket block (14) is provided within the channel (11) and excess lengths of cable (15) can be placed in the channel (11).

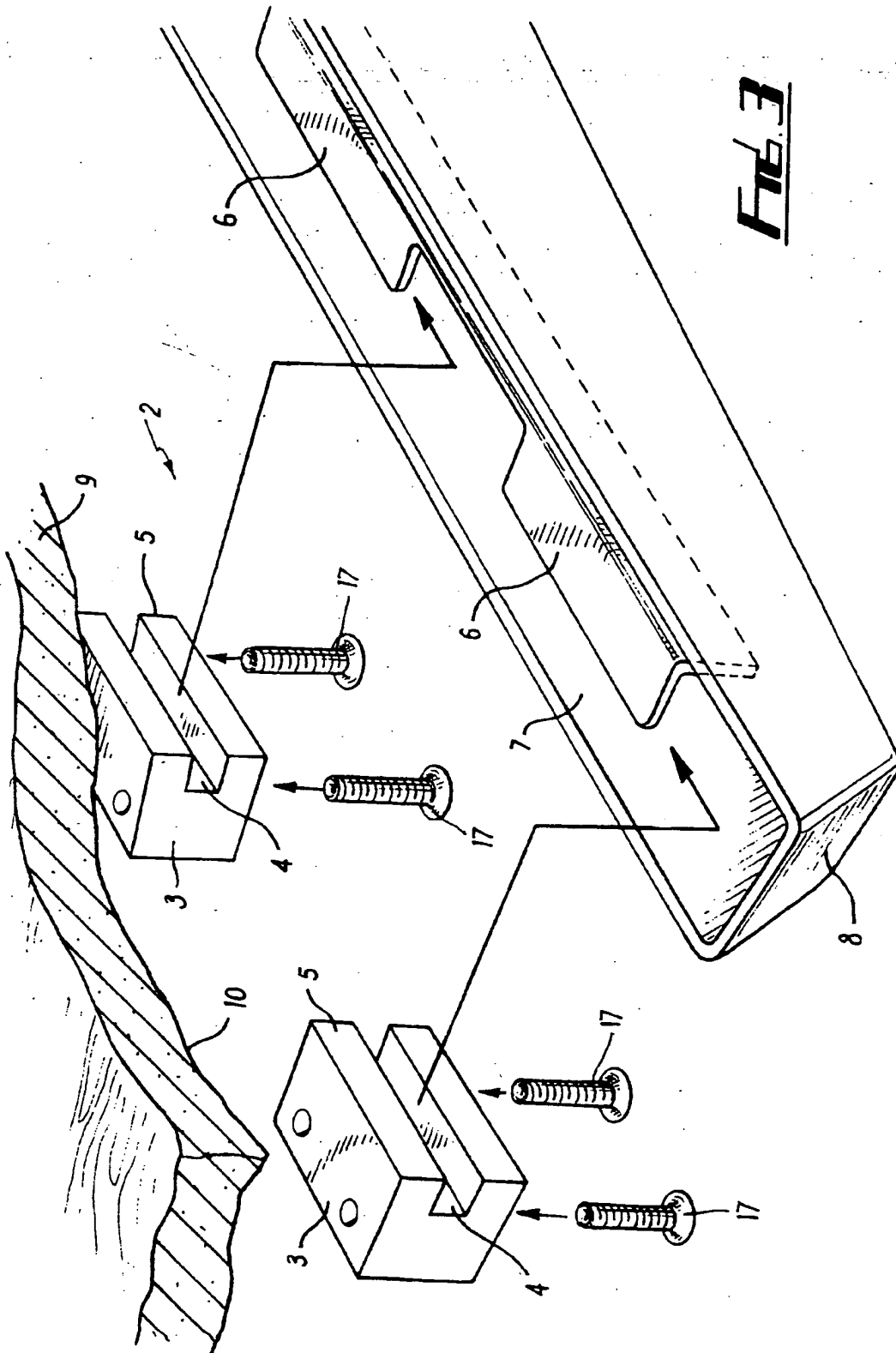


**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 2**





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